

In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are reproduced below.

1. (Currently amended) Method of determining the oxygen demand, total oxygen demand (TOD) or chemical oxygen demand (COD), of an aqueous solution-for a purification process, comprising the steps of;

(a) providing an elongated and substantially vertically oriented reaction chamber;
and

(b) decomposing sample of the aqueous solution by combustion, without the presence of a catalyst in an upper region of the reaction chamber at a temperature of at least or above 1200°C .

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein after combustion salts contained in the sample are removed at ~~[[the]]~~ a lower end of the reaction chamber.